William W. Belcher

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Chap 4

FRONTIER FORTS

Pocahontas County Rich in Historical Localities.

The old forts used in Indian time as shown by records and tradition in territory now comprising Pocahontas were as follows:

Fort Burnside. On Greenbrier river. Location not definitely known. Supposed to be near the station Burnside on the Greenbrier division of the C & O railway.

Fort Cloverlick. On Clover Creek about one and a half miles from its mouth, near the north fork of the Creek, and about 300 yards from the residence of the late C. P. Dorr.

Fort Drennen - West of the public road, about 300 yards, in an old orchard at the foot of Elk Mountain, half a mile northwest of Edray.

Fort Buckley. At Mill Point on the site of the home of Isaac McNeel on the northern bank of stamping Creek about one and a half miles from Greenbrier river. Sometimes called Fort Day or Fort Prince.

Fort Warwick. Located on Deer Creek about three miles from its mouth, and about four miles from Cass. This Fort was near the home of Peter H. Warwick.

There was also an old fort near Green Bank on land formerly owned by James Wooddell and now owned by Henry Wooddell. The name of this fort is not known.

There was also an old fort on Greenbrier river near the mouth of Stony creek on the Levi Gay farm, now owned by Pat Gay. It was at this place Baker was killed by the Indians. Richard Hill, the ancestor of all the Hills in the Levels, and Baker in the early morning went to the river to wash for breakfast, when the Indians fired on them killing Baker but Hill escaped to the fort. The alarm was given that the Indians were in the country and about twenty men came from the Levels but no trace could be found and on their return to the Levels, the Bridger boys left the main party and took a near cut and were killed in the low place on the mountain now owned by W. H. Auldridge where they were waylaid and killed by the Indians.

[illegible] by the Indians.

Previous to the time of the forts named above, General Andrew Lewis, acting on instructions from the Govenor of Virginia, in the year 1755, established a Fort known as Fort Greenbrier on the land that he had prior to that time surveyed at the mouth of Knapps Creek on the Greenbrier River.

The river had been named in 1751, and this is demonstrated by the order to establish the fort at Greenbrier. This fort stood about where Court House now stands. Gen. Lewis was at this place when he marched his company to join Braddock. He was in the disastrous battle near Pittsburgh where Braddock was slain and left 800 men dead on the field. These bodies were not buried, until their bones were collected years after. It is probably the most savage occurrence in the history of the English race.